

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application, of which claims 1, 5, 7, 11, 13, and 17 are independent claims. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 11 have been amended. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 13-20. However, for the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action mailed on March 18, 2003, claims 1-12 were again rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Iwasa (U.S. Patent 6,470,473). This ground of rejection is now respectfully traversed because Iwasa fails to teach or suggest the limitations of amended claims 1, 5, 7, and 11.

The decoding system of amended claims 1 and 7 recite that both of said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome are generated before the ECC decoder performs the error correction decoding. The decoding method of amended claims 5 and 11 recite that reading said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome to the ECC decoder are both performed before the ECC decoder performs the error-detection decoding, and that the calculation of said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome is performed before correcting the PI syndrome and the PO syndrome, respectively.

The support for these amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 5, line 150 to page 6, line 161. As described in the specification, when the decoding system performs the error correction decoding, the syndromes before error correction decoding

appended with the syndrome of the error produce the new syndromes. That is, the ECC decoder calculates the PI syndromes and the PO syndromes before the decoding system performs the error correction decoding.

Iwasa fails to teach or suggest the above features of the amended claims. At least as shown in Fig. 3, the PO syndrome is generated from the PI syndrome after the PI syndrome has being error-correction decoded. In col. 3, lines 20-40, Iwasa describes that the decoding processing system is configured to generate syndromes of a first series from the data, to perform an error correction of the data on the basis of the generated syndromes of the first series, . . . , to generate and store syndromes of a second series from the error corrected data, . . . , and so on. Therefore, according to Iwasa, the decoding system fails to teach or suggest that both of said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome are generated before the ECC decoder performs the error correction decoding, as recited in amended claims 1 and 5. Iwasa further fails to teach or suggest a decoding method and that reading said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome to the ECC decoder are both performed before the ECC decoder performs the error-detection decoding, as recited in amended claim 7, and that the calculation of said PI syndrome and said PO syndrome is performed before correcting the PI syndrome and the PO syndrome, as recited in amended claim 11.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent amended claims 1, 5, 7 and 11 each recites or requires at least one of the distinguishing features set for the above. Consequently, even in view of Applicant's admitted prior art, Iwasa fails to disclose each and every feature of the presently claimed invention.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

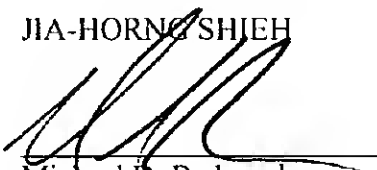
SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, VA 22102
Tel: 703/770-7900

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Respectfully submitted,

JIA-HORNG SHIEH

By:


Michael D. Bednarek
Registration No. 32,329

MDB/CYM/dkp